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Cuba and CIA

American press and wire services generally if privately admit that Ridel Castro's overthrow of Dictator Russian cio Batista was one of the worst covered stories of teacht history. It now begins to appear that the role of the Contain Intelligence, Agency, in organizing Cuban rebel forces for the ill-fated fin-

Television news commentator Charles Collingwood charges that CIA's participation had been depen secret for menths." Specifically, Collingwood points out that the agency's part in the rental of land in Guatemala for training rebels had been turned up in October by Prof. Ronald Hilton, of Stanford University, and published in an obscure learned journal.

The Nation magazine took up the story in November, and there have been occasional reference in Time. Perhaps the litial daily press account was a from page story in the N. Y. Times, Jan. 10, which detailed some of the activity at the mysterious Retalhuleu air base in Guatemala but did not name the C.A. Except for subsequent occasional coverage by that newspaper, the story generally ignored by the press until after the abortive landings in Cuba. 🔣

The difficulty of a democratic government's conducting clandestine operations is pointed up in the CIA-Cuba story. President John F. Kennedy is

reported to have remarked wryly at a National Security Council meeting that there was "no New York Times" to print the news of what the Communists were doing in Laos and Viet Nam.

of U.S. para-military activities ordered by President Kennedy April 22 is to be government-wide, but vasion" of Castro's Cube was another, obviously it will bear down on the CIA if of slightly lesser magnitude. forces. It may well have the effect of forestalling the proposal made by Sen. Mike Mansfield (D. Mont.) five years ago and renewed after the U-2 incident of last year that a permanent joint committee be established to make continuing studies of the agency.

has every right to investigate CIA. Congress established the agency in 1947; Congress votes its funds (though only a few members know what they're voting for); Congress in 1949 greatly extended CIA's authority.

But the CIA Act of 1949 specifically exempts the cloak-and-dagger agency from the provisions of any law requiring publication or disclosure of the "organization, functions, names, official titles, salaries, or numbers of personnel employes." This kind of freedom from public scrutiny has given CIA both its strength and its occasional weaknesses. In this respect the special study group ordered by the president, on balance, would seem to be better able to investigate the agency without airing its secrets than a Congressional .committee would be.

The above editorial also appeared in the following other newspapers:

ST. JOSEPH NEWS PRESS. MO. - APR. 28,1961 MOLINE DISPATCH, ILL. - APR. 29, 1961 ROYAL OAK TRIBUNE. MICH. - APR. 27,1961 AMARILLD NEWS, TEXAS - APR. 28,1961 EL PASO TIMES, TEXAS - APR. 27,1961 MAY 11, 1961 BLUEFIELD TELEGRAPH, W. Va.-WOONSOCKET CALL, R.I.